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IN 203739

TO: 021959Z MAR 77

[CARA] 32390

S E C R E T 021944Z MAR 77 STAFF

CITE [CARACAS] 32390

TO: PRIORITY DIRECTOR.

WNINTEL RYBAT

REF: [CARACAS] 32384 (N 203537)\*

1. CARACAS ENGLISH LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER "THE DAILY JOURNAL" OF 2 MARCH HAS FOLLOWING EDITORIAL COMMENT ENTITLED "THE NEW YORK TIMES AGAIN":

TEXT: "WHAT IS THE NEW YORK TIMES TRYING TO DO? IT PRINTED AN ERRONEOUS REPORT SLANDERING THE <sup>HEAD</sup> HAD OF A FRIENDLY STATE, BASED ON RUMORS WHICH ITS OWN CORRESPONDENT ADMITTED WERE NOT FULLY CHECKED OUT. <sup>THIS</sup> TIS ACTION CAUSED A SERIOUS DIPLOMATIC INCIDENT WHICH WAS SETTLED ONLY THROUGH THE PERSONAL INTERVENTION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE USA.

NOW, THE NEW YORK DAILY, IN AN APPARENT ATTEMPT TO SALVAGE ITS REPUTATION, HAS DUG UP A SELF-PROCLAIMED FORMER CIA OFFICIAL WHO SAYS THAT THE CIA <sup>GAVE</sup> GVE MONEY TO THE GOVERNMENT HERE, NOT TO ANY INDIVIDUAL.

LAST NIGHT, THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALLY AND EMPHATICALLY DENIED THIS REPORT.

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THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT, ON ITS OWN INITIATIVE AND WITHOUT ANY PROMPTING FROM WASHINGTON, FOUGHT COMMUNIST INSURRECTION TO A STANDSTILL HERE IN THE EARLY SIXTIES. THERE WAS NO NEED OF ANY PAYMENT FROM THE CIA FOR ANYTHING. THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT WAS WHOLEHEARTEDLY IN THIS FIGHT FOR ITS OWN REASONS, TO PROTECT ITS OWN INTERESTS, USING ITS OWN RESOURCES."

2. NOTE IN THE ABOVE THAT THE JOURNAL HAS MADE THE SAME ERROR AS THE GOVERNMENT OF VENEZUELA IN ATTRIBUTING INFO FROM "INTELLIGENCE SOURCES" AND "AN OLD OFFICIAL OF THE CIA" AS COMING FROM DAVID PHILLIPS. SINCE ONE OF THE FAVORITE STUNTS IN THIS COUNTRY IS TO QUOTE STATEMENTS OUT OF CONTEXT AND/OR MISQUOTE ACCIDENTALLY OR ON PURPOSE, SUCH STATEMENTS RARELY CLARIFY ANYTHING; THEY ONLY COMPLICATE, ALMOST ALWAYS TO OUR DISADVANTAGE.

3. NO FILE. E2-IMPDET.

\*Advised that New York Times article of 1 March has blown the lid off the situation in Caracas again.

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